

THE LIVING TRADITION

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COMHALTAS – CORONAVIRUS

Communication No. 9

- As communicated earlier, the closing date for membership has been relaxed for now to facilitate members who have not been able to join during these challenging times. As of now, the membership year of 2020/2021 will be upheld as it is important to stay with current structures as far as possible.
- Bardic awardee Gary Lynch has brought to our attention that Bannow Branch of Comhaltas in County Wexford under Paul O’ Sullivan have set up a Google (virtual) Classroom so that the branch can continue to learn music and song during the restrictions.
It is currently a general online classroom where notes, song words and recordings are uploaded for everyone to learn common tunes and songs. As the students adapt to the new learning platform they will be separated out into classes with material relevant to age/ability. Separate classes for bands and groups will also be setup. The branch uptake has been very good so far with each student using their own e-mail and password to access the material. New tunes and songs are added every few days. Students learn and upload their tunes/songs so they can be assessed to see how they are getting on. Feedback can then be given by the branch tutors. The classroom is moderated by Paul to make it a safe learning environment for the students. Paul is a National School teacher based in Dublin.
- Micheál de Buitléir tells us that Craobh Eochaille CCÉ have also set up an online Learning Management Scheme (LMS) and they would appreciate support and shared knowledge. You can contact Micheál at youghal@comhaltas.net. Craobh Eochaille and their cultural centre Brú na Sí wish to keep up spirits and are looking forward to better days.
- We are at present compiling the next issue of TREOIR. This will reflect ATHNUACHAN (Renewal) and AN RÓD SEO ROMHAINN (The Future). We will welcome any items/articles/anecdotes from recent experiences.

- School teacher Karen Trench, Kerry County secretary of Comhaltas and All-Ireland champion singer, writes to us as follows:

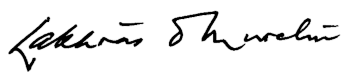
It's very uplifting to hear of the many wonderful and positive actions being undertaken by Comhaltas members and regional leaders across the country and overseas to keep the flag of Irish culture flying to boost people's spirits. CCÉ Coiste Chontae Chiarraí are also busy with an ongoing project with the assistance of PR activist John Stack. When the schools closed and all social gatherings ceased on March 12th, CCÉ Coiste Chontae Chiarraí invited our musician & singer members of all ages at home and those working overseas, to submit video recordings of themselves & family members for our Kerry CCÉ Facebook page. This has been a massive success and attracts very positive comments and thousands of views from people in Ireland and abroad. The following are some statistics from our uploading from 16th March to 6th April:

Number of videos uploaded to date- 81 Videos

Number of video views from 16th March to 6th April: 66,940

As of 6th April, Kerry CCÉ still has another 71 Videos to be uploaded with more coming in each day, including from Kerry diaspora living abroad. We have accumulated a wealth of excellent material and have offered it to Radio Kerry, who are positive towards using it for new broadcasts in the coming weeks.

TÁ NA SCÉALTA DEARFACHA AG TEACHT ISTEACH CHUGAINN GO RIALTA. BAIL Ó DHIA ORAIBH. TUGANN SÉ SEO AN-MHISNEACH DÚINN. NÍ NEART GO CUR LE CHÉILE AGUS CINNTE BEIDH LÁ EILE AG AN gCEOLTÓIR!



Labhrás Ó Murchú
Ardstiúrthóir CCÉ